

Message Text

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TO USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNCTAD, AORG, UN

SUBJECT: UNCTAD - USE OF UN BUDGET FUNDS TO SUPPORT MEETINGS
OF GROUP OF 77 AND REGIONAL GROUPS

REF: A. GENEVA 6097

B. USUN 3137

C. STATE 198669

USUN, PLEASE PASS TO ROBERT ALLEN OF LOS DEL

1. THE DEPT FEELS THAT A MAXIMUM EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE
PRIOR TO THE OCTOBER TDB MEETING TO DEVELOP A STRONG GROUP
B POSITION AGAINST THE USE OF UN BUDGET FUNDS FOR MEETINGS
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THAT ARE RESTRICTED TO THE GROUP OF 77 OR ANY OTHER REGIONAL

GROUPS. WE MUST, IN PARTICULAR, OPPOSE THE G-77'S ATTEMPT TO RE-INTERPRET PORTIONS OF UNGA RESOLUTION 3362 (S-VII) AND UNCTAD RESOLUTION 92(IV) AS AUTHORIZING THE USE OF UN FUNDS FOR MEETINGS RESTRICTED TO REGIONAL GROUPS OR LDCS AS A MEANS OF PROMOTING ECONOMIC COOPERATION AMONG LDCS. SUCH A PRACTICE WOULD BE CONTRARY TO OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE MEANING OF THESE RESOLUTIONS AND TO ESTABLISHED UN PRACTICE, AND COULD, IN OUR VIEW, CONSTITUTE AN IMPERMISSIBLE LIMITATION ON THE RIGHTS OF ALL MEMBERS TO PARTICIPATE FULLY IN UNCTAD ACTIVITIES.

2. WE NOTED WITH INTEREST IN PARAGRAPH 4 OF REF (A) THAT CO-CHAIRMEN OF GENEVA GROUP (US AND UK) WILL DRAFT PAPER ON THIS SUBJECT FOR GENEVA GROUP MEETING IN SEPTEMBER. WE WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING AN ADVANCE COPY OF THIS PAPER AND BEING INFORMED OF THE LIKELY DATE OF THE GENEVA GROUP MEETING.

3. WE SUGGEST THAT US-UK PAPER SHOULD FOCUS ON THE FOLLOWING BASIC POINTS:

A. MEETINGS FINANCED FROM ASSESSED UN BUDGET FUNDS SHOULD BE OPEN TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE UN ORGANIZATION IN QUESTION AND/OR BASED ON DECISIONS IN WHICH ALL MEMBERS HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE.

B. WHEN LANGUAGE OF RESOLUTION 3362(SECTION VI, PARA 1) AND UNCTAD RESOLUTION 92(IV) WAS PROPOSED, DISCUSSED AND ADOPTED, IT WAS NEVER CONSTRUED AS AUTHORIZING THE USE OF UN BUDGET FUNDS TO FINANCE, OR PARTLY FINANCE, MEETINGS THAT ARE RESTRICTED TO THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES OR ANY OTHER GROUP. IT WAS IN KEEPING WITH THIS UNDERSTANDING THAT WE AUTHORIZED IN RESOLUTION 90(IV) THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES THAT WOULD BE OPEN-ENDED (I.E., OPEN TO ALL STATES MEMBERS OF UNCTAD).

4. RECENT DECISION BY UN COMMITTEE ON CONFERENCES NOT TO ALLOCATE SPECIFIC BUDGETARY FUNDS FOR INFORMAL GROUP MEETINGS (DESCRIBED IN REF B) IS SUPPORTIVE OF OUR POSITION. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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